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ECONOMIC INDICATORS
Third Quarter
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MONTANA

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

AN ANALYSIS OF PAST AND PRESENT ECONOMIC TRENDS

STATE OF MONTANA

THOMAS L. JUDGE, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
DAVID E. FULLER, COMMISSIONER

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Volume V Number 3

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Montana Dakota Utilities

Montana Power Company

Pacific Power and Light

Mountain Bell Telephone Company

Business Week

Employment, Hours and Earnings, and Labor Turnover data produced in cooperation with U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the Employment and Training Administration.

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A NOTE ABOUT BENCHMARKING AND SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT CHANGES

Because of new benchmarks and new seasonal adjustment factors, some of the series in this publication have been changed to take into account the latest information available. 1977 benchmarks, which reflect the most recent and complete estimates of employment, account for revisions to indicators dealing with total and industry detailed employment. These benchmark levels are revised annually to adjust for sampling errors and any changes to industrial classifications. In addition, all of those series requiring seasonal adjustment have also been revised to reflect the most recent seasonal adjustment factors. Changes in these seasonal series can be attributed to the inclusion of 1977 data in the BLS seasonal adjustment method.

THIRD QUARTER ANALYSIS: 1978

The Montana economy showed seasonal strength during the third quarter of 1978 but negative signs persisted especially in some leading economic indicators. In contrast to last quarter, labor force statistics were the positive indicators, as the civilian labor force and employment levels grew while the number of unemployed and the jobless rate were dropping.

The positive indicators for September are headed by the unemployment rate. The rate is 4.6% as compared to 5.5% in the same month of 1977. Unemployment has decreased by 2,200 when compared to last September and is calculated to be 17,200 in September of 1978. Manufacturing employment shows a gain over last year, with lumber and wood products also noting an increase in the number employed.

The labor turnover statistics show some negative movement as the quit rate is substantially above last year's and new hires are down. The layoff rate is down, however, from last year but last year had some unusually large layoffs in mining and primary metals during the quarter. Average weekly hours in manufacturing are also lower than they were a year ago.

Building permits are down from last year as especially residential construction appears to be slowing. The statistic has, however, not dropped extensively and it should be remembered that 1977 was an excellent construction year. New corporations are also lower than last September's but the same caveat that applies to last year's building permits applies to last year's new corporations. The rising interest rates are also expected to have a future impact on construction starts.

The grouping of the indicators into leading and coincident groups results in some other observations. The coinciding indicators are on the upswing and above last year's totals, a reflection of the generally good condition of the current economy and immediate past months activity. The leading indicators, in contrast, appear to

be lower than last year's similar figures but there is not a long enough negative trend to base any prediction on. The composite index of leading indicators, in fact, has risen slightly in the quarter after falling in the second quarter.

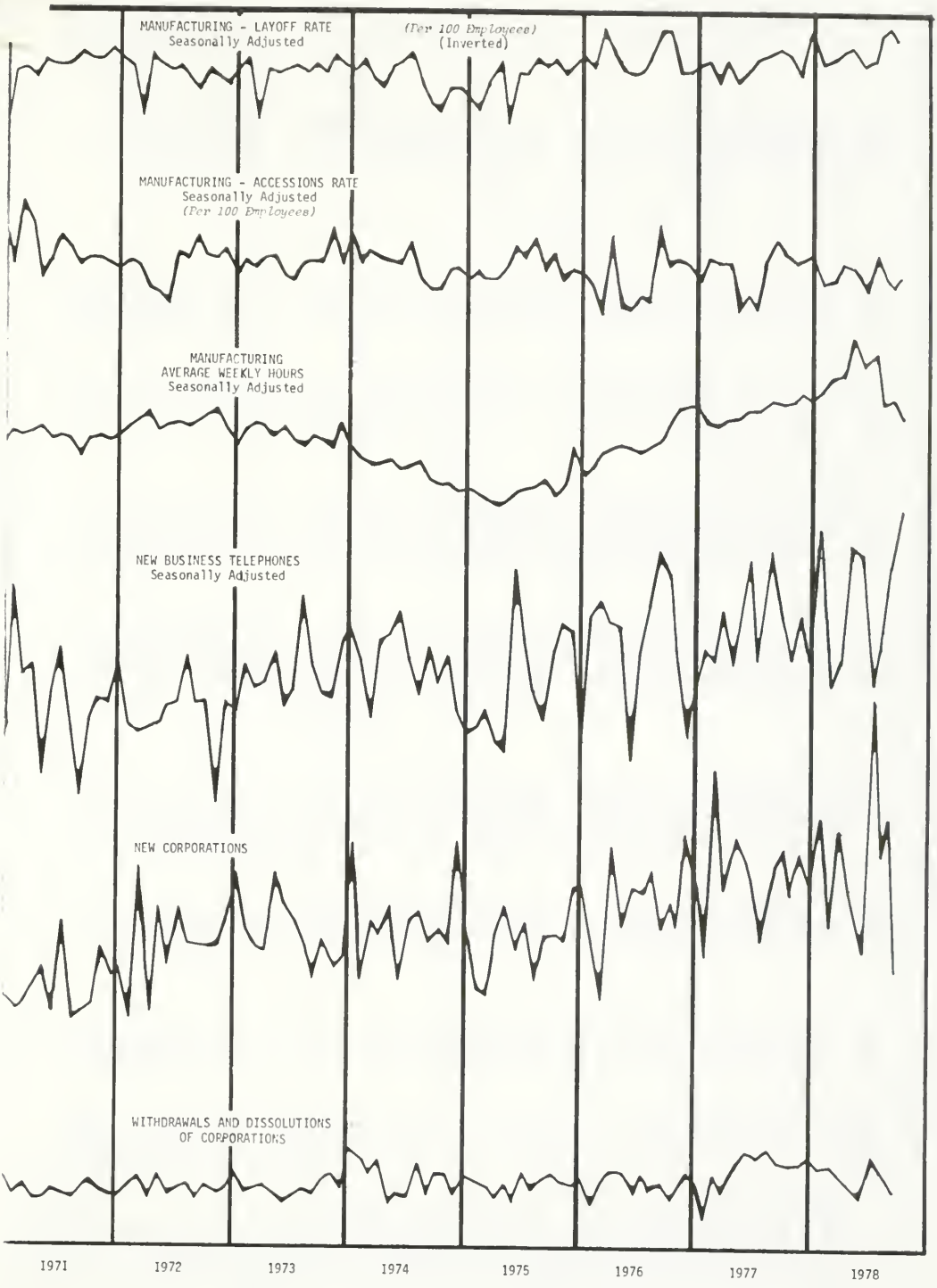
Inflation and high interest rates are the major economic problems currently facing Montanans. Real spendable wages decreased during the quarter as a rising Consumer Price Index negated any gains in gross wages. This is a national problem, of course, so Montana residents will have a share in any national policies on inflation. Interest rates have recently gone up to new high levels and the impact may soon be felt on the construction industry, especially where homes are involved. If construction activity does drop an eventual effect will be to reduce the demand for construction supplies, and this would certainly affect employment levels in Montana's vital lumber and wood products sector. On these two concerns, extremely high interest and persistent high inflation, the future course of the state's economy probably rests, although the difference may not be one of decline or rise, but rather that of slight growth in the economy versus a strong growth.

		Average Weekly Initial Claims		Total Nonagricultural Placements		LEADING INDICATOR Total Number of Building Permits		Number of Residential Building Permits		MANUFACTURING Quit Rate (Per 100 Employees)		New Hires Rate	
		UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ
1976	Jan.	1,501	856	2,154	3,161	276	521	107	181	1.6	2.2	2.1	3.2
	Feb.	1,240	1,201	2,209	3,395	319	539	148	196	0.6	1.5	1.1	2.6
	Mar.	1,326	1,350	2,744	3,426	553	617	251	237	0.6	1.2	0.9	1.5
	Apr.	1,249	1,331	3,247	3,426	845	729	259	207	1.4	1.5	3.6	3.9
	May	845	1,103	3,271	2,704	767	646	198	183	1.4	1.4	3.1	2.3
	Jun.	1,419	1,603	5,035	4,432	860	664	250	228	1.4	1.2	4.7	2.7
	Jul.	1,268	1,430	4,137	3,210	781	660	264	229	1.5	1.4	3.3	2.4
	Aug.	1,090	1,388	4,932	3,120	807	654	274	260	2.3	1.2	2.8	1.8
	Sep.	897	1,247	4,137	3,324	834	688	261	227	3.3	1.6	5.0	4.3
	Oct.	1,248	1,279	3,142	3,195	692	613	284	246	1.8	1.7	4.0	3.1
	Nov.	1,507	1,209	3,020	3,587	443	570	205	239	1.6	2.1	1.9	3.3
	Dec.	1,585	1,172	2,644	3,716	324	602	141	210	1.2	1.8	1.7	3.0
1977	Jan.	1,853	1,216	2,527	3,539	232	481	86	161	1.1	1.7	1.7	2.8
	Feb.	1,209	1,179	2,238	3,414	467	691	226	274	1.6	2.5	1.8	3.3
	Mar.	1,252	1,274	3,139	3,796	831	896	387	373	1.3	1.9	2.6	3.2
	Apr.	1,123	1,207	3,013	3,185	765	650	410	357	1.8	1.9	3.0	3.4
	May	1,026	1,282	4,696	4,138	710	591	210	199	1.5	1.5	2.6	1.9
	Jun.	1,237	1,412	5,109	4,505	905	699	266	242	1.9	1.7	4.8	2.8
	Jul.	1,201	1,357	5,649	4,693	720	597	231	195	1.5	1.4	3.2	2.3
	Aug.	1,107	1,407	6,469	4,663	788	630	289	274	2.7	1.6	4.0	3.0
	Sep.	938	1,295	5,800	4,996	790	635	335	298	3.6	1.9	4.3	3.6
	Oct.	1,196	1,228	3,965	4,059	746	668	336	294	2.0	1.9	4.4	3.4
	Nov.	1,795	1,489	3,318	3,890	554	686	258	293	1.3	1.7	1.3	2.7
	Dec.	1,711	1,305	2,981	4,020	339	629	209	285	1.0	1.5	1.7	3.0
1978	Jan.	1,775	1,141	1,117	2,132	201	451	93	168	1.4	2.0	1.3	2.4
	Feb.	1,496	1,470	3,065	4,236	318	544	151	199	0.8	1.7	1.2	2.7
	Mar.	1,118	1,138	3,742	4,386	876	942	399	384	1.2	1.8	1.6	2.2
	Apr.	828	913	4,269	4,438	1,124	1,010	598	544	1.6	1.7	2.1	2.5
	May	844	1,099	5,056	4.503	1,195	1,077	596	587	1.6	1.6	3.0	2.3
	Jun.	1,225	1,395	7,532	6,927	1,056	845	507	482	1.7	1.5	5.4	3.4
	Jul.	916	1,069	5,616	4,645	848	724	316	280	1.6	1.5	2.6	1.7
	Aug.	606	907	6,310	4,507	824	664	342	326	2.5	1.4	2.9	1.9
	Sep.	720	1,081	5,063	4,263	779	620	275	236	4.2	2.5	3.0	2.3
	Oct.												
	Nov.												
	Dec.												

LEADING INDICATORS

		MANUFACTURING									
		Layoff Rate (Per 100 Employees)		Accessions Rate (Per 100 Employees)		Average Weekly Hours		New Business Telephones		New Corporations	Withdrawals and Dissolutions of Corporations
		UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ		
1976	Jan.	0.4	0.6	2.8	3.5	38.1	37.6	77	65	170	21
	Feb.	0.9	1.0	1.5	3.0	37.9	38.4	207	227	132	8
	Mar.	0.1	-0.4	1.5	2.2	38.7	39.2	276	227	101	20
	Apr.	0.4	0.7	4.5	4.6	38.6	39.4	236	227	198	23
	May	0.5	0.9	3.6	2.7	39.7	39.8	349	208	144	22
	Jun.	0.5	1.1	5.4	2.7	39.6	39.5	155	-5	170	15
	Jul.	1.1	1.2	3.7	3.1	38.4	39.4	206	173	167	25
	Aug.	0.7	0.8	3.1	2.3	39.8	39.6	140	204	184	17
	Sep.	0.4	0.3	5.4	4.9	40.6	40.0	223	299	145	21
	Oct.	0.5	0.3	4.4	3.7	42.1	41.1	242	292	163	13
	Nov.	1.8	1.0	2.3	3.9	41.7	41.6	58	145	146	22
	Dec.	1.6	1.3	2.3	3.8	42.6	42.0	-26	79	208	27
1977	Jan.	0.7	0.9	2.8	3.5	42.5	42.0	203	192	173	20
	Feb.	0.7	0.8	2.5	4.0	40.6	41.1	157	179	125	6
	Mar.	2.0	1.5	3.2	3.9	40.4	41.0	284	230	249	25
	Apr.	0.6	0.9	4.0	4.1	40.5	41.4	178	174	172	17
	May	0.9	1.3	3.3	2.4	41.4	41.5	371	234	203	26
	Jun.	0.4	1.0	5.8	3.1	41.9	41.8	412	246	187	38
	Jul.	0.6	0.6	3.4	2.9	40.9	41.9	203	170	139	28
	Aug.	0.5	0.7	4.4	3.6	42.6	42.4	204	266	182	40
	Sep.	0.6	0.6	4.8	4.3	42.7	42.2	141	218	199	28
	Oct.	0.9	0.8	4.6	3.9	43.1	42.1	108	156	169	21
	Nov.	2.3	1.4	1.8	3.5	42.9	42.8	130	216	193	23
	Dec.	0.5	0.2	2.1	3.6	42.6	42.0	48	157	173	26
1978	Jan.	1.2	1.4	2.4	3.1	43.5	42.9	342	332	216	24
	Feb.	1.3	1.3	1.8	3.3	43.0	43.5	98	122	144	25
	Mar.	1.3	0.8	2.9	3.6	43.2	43.8	212	155	204	21
	Apr.	.5	.9	3.3	3.4	44.9	45.8	305	304	163	18
	May	1.2	1.5	3.4	2.6	43.8	43.9	424	290	127	9
	Jun.	.8	1.4	6.5	3.8	44.5	44.5	293	124	291	29
	Jul.	.3	.3	3.5	3.0	41.1	42.1	210	177	191	26
	Aug.	.6	.1	3.5	2.7	42.4	42.2	216	277	212	22
	Sep.	.5	.5	3.5	3.0	41.3	40.8	281	359	112	12
	Oct.										
	Nov.										
	Dec.										

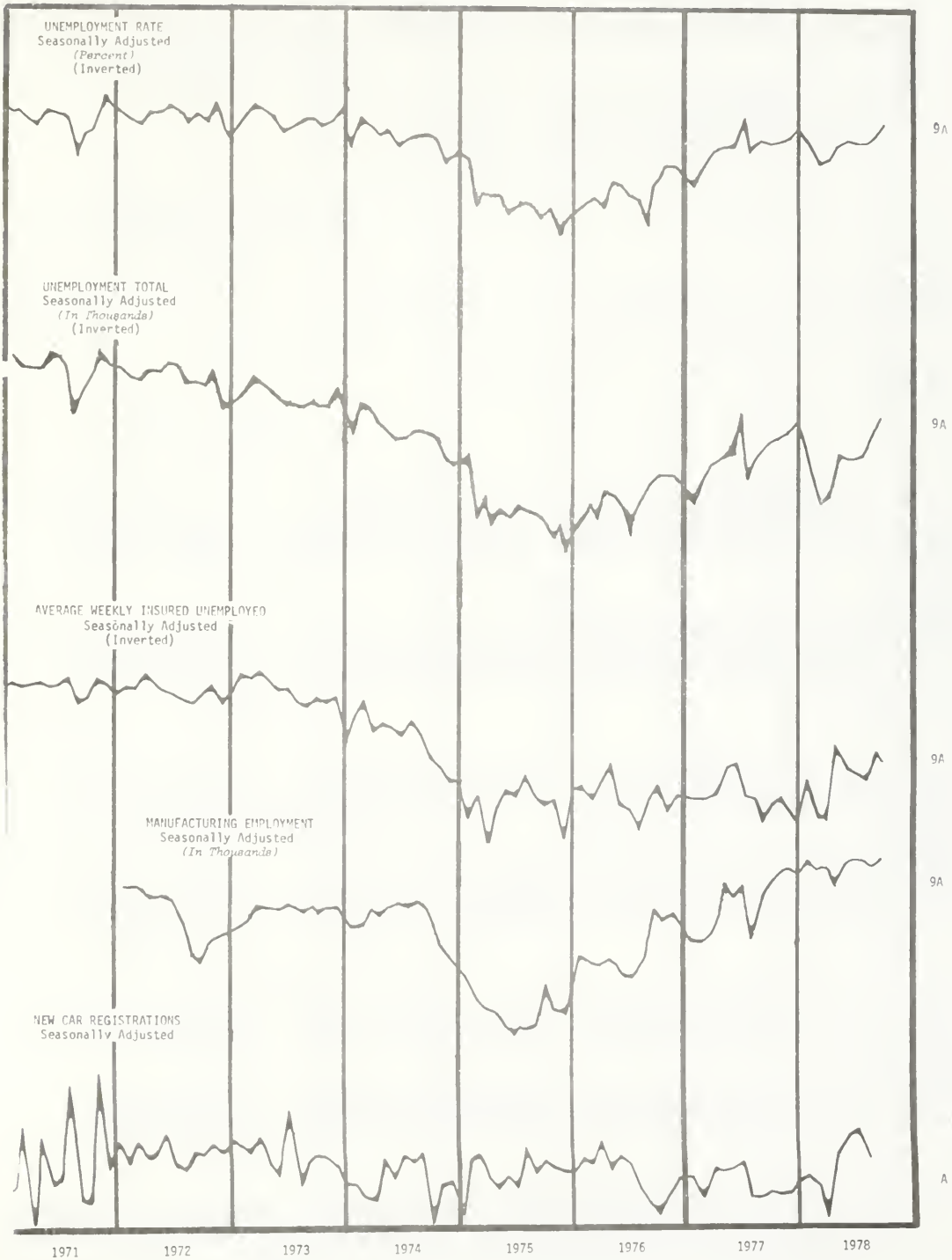
LEADING INDICATORS



COINCIDING INDICATOR

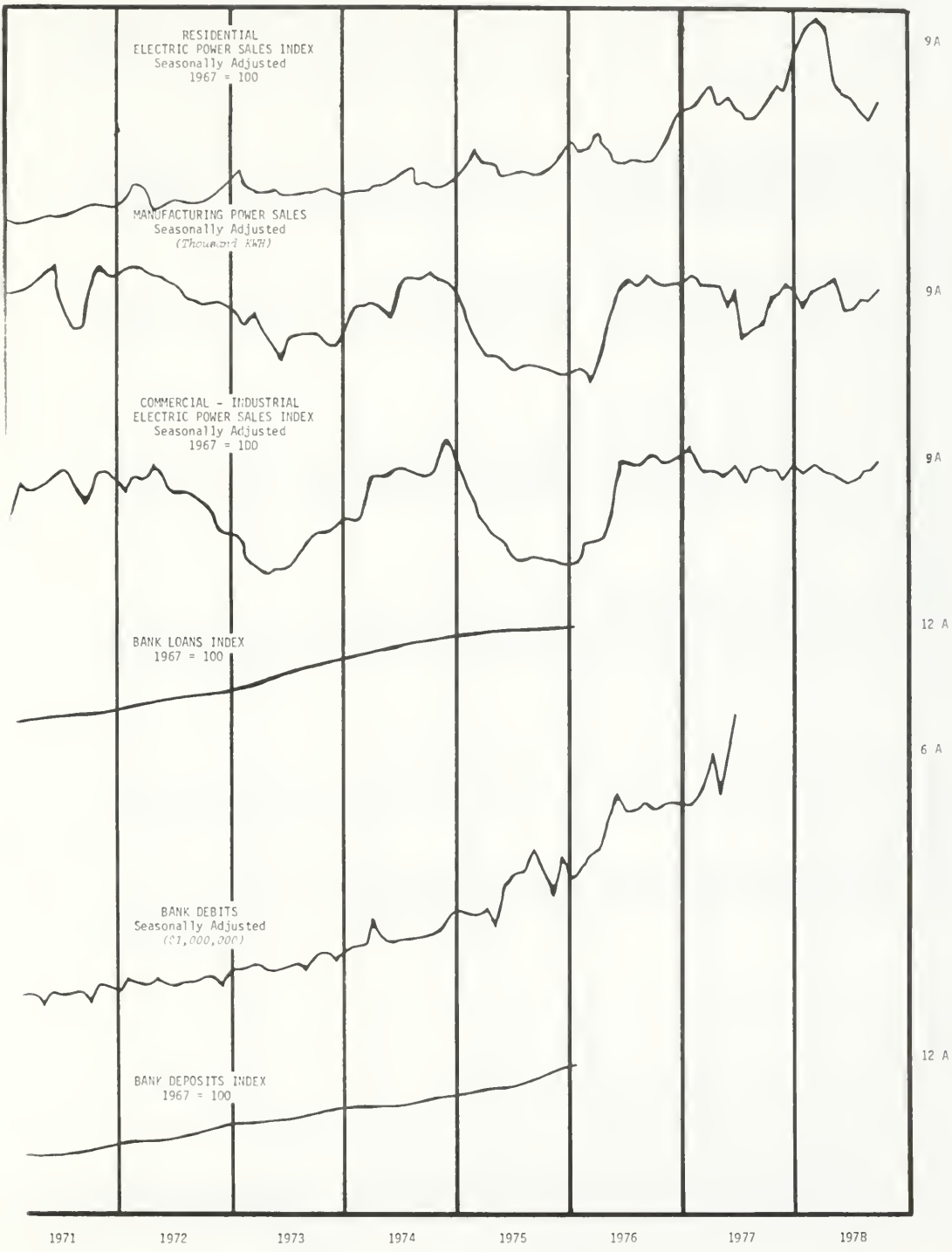
		Unemployment Rate (Percent)		Unemployment Total (in Thousands)		Average Weekly Insured Unemployed		Manufacturing Employment (in Thousands)		New Car Registrations	
		UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ
1976	Jan.	7.9	6.3	24.4	20.5	14,264	10,735	22.5	23.4	1,339	2,239
	Feb.	7.4	5.9	22.9	19.5	15,281	10,459	22.4	23.3	2,273	2,549
	Mar.	7.2	6.1	22.8	20.0	14,187	11,527	22.1	23.2	2,364	2,256
	Apr.	5.9	5.7	19.1	18.9	11,593	10,613	22.6	23.4	3,080	2,710
	May	5.0	5.8	16.6	19.1	8,543	10,026	22.7	23.2	2,462	2,240
	Jun.	6.2	6.0	21.3	19.6	9,180	11,611	23.7	23.2	2,621	2,406
	Jul.	5.5	6.1	19.6	20.3	9,875	11,746	24.4	23.2	2,698	2,420
	Aug.	5.3	6.2	18.8	20.7	9,888	12,067	24.9	23.6	2,245	1,991
	Sep.	4.9	6.0	16.8	20.1	7,598	11,342	24.8	23.8	1,765	1,742
	Oct.	5.1	5.9	16.9	19.9	8,274	10,931	25.2	24.6	1,617	1,428
	Nov.	5.9	6.0	19.4	20.2	12,023	11,648	24.5	24.5	1,745	1,820
	Dec.	6.5	6.3	21.4	21.1	12,890	10,789	24.2	24.6	1,654	2,099
1977	Jan.	7.9	6.3	25.0	21.2	14,516	11,050	23.9	24.8	1,158	2,081
	Feb.	7.9	6.5	25.4	22.0	15,593	10,707	24.0	24.8	1,455	1,704
	Mar.	7.7	6.6	25.4	22.5	13,072	10,405	23.6	24.7	2,181	2,047
	Apr.	6.7	6.6	22.6	22.3	10,912	9,979	23.6	25.6	2,324	1,944
	May	6.1	6.8	20.6	23.1	8,270	9,823	24.6	25.1	2,279	2,070
	Jun.	6.3	6.2	22.5	20.8	8,198	10,677	25.8	25.4	2,462	2,188
	Jul.	6.0	6.6	22.0	22.7	9,024	10,883	24.9	23.8	1,906	1,639
	Aug.	5.7	6.6	21.2	23.1	9,421	11,538	26.2	24.9	1,911	1,629
	Sep.	5.5	6.6	19.4	22.8	7,631	11,442	26.4	25.4	1,774	1,786
	Oct.	5.4	6.3	18.8	21.9	8,324	11,022	26.1	25.5	1,824	1,679
	Nov.	6.0	6.1	20.4	21.2	12,407	11,949	25.8	25.8	1,690	1,792
	Dec.	6.1	5.9	20.8	20.5	14,854	12,675	25.1	25.5	1,496	1,925
1978	Jan.	8.1	6.6	26.9	23.2	13,849	10,414	25.2	26.1	1,135	2,069
	Feb.	8.8	7.4	30.0	26.7	17,654	12,736	25.0	25.8	1,487	1,723
	Mar.	8.3	7.2	29.0	26.2	14,769	12,676	24.8	25.9	1,336	1,188
	Apr.	6.5	6.3	23.2	22.9	9,633	8,724	24.7	25.4	2,428	2,343
	May	5.7	6.4	20.6	23.0	8,733	9,925	25.5	26.0	2,794	2,591
	Jun.	6.6	6.4	25.0	23.2	8,338	10,103	26.6	26.2	3,028	2,724
	Jul.	5.9	6.4	22.4	23.1	7,601	9,454	27.3	26.2	2,586	2,324
	Aug.	5.2	6.1	19.7	21.6	8,771	10,856	27.2	25.9		
	Sep.	4.6	5.7	17.2	20.5	5,919	9,764	27.2	26.2		
	Oct.										
	Nov.										
	Dec.										

COINCIDING INDICATORS



		Residential Electric Power Sales Index 1967 = 100		Manufacturing Power Sales (Thousand KWH)		Commercial-Industrial Electric Power Sales Index 1967 = 100		Bank Loans Index	Bank Deposits Index	Bank Debits ($1,000,000)	
		UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ			UNADJ	ADJ
1976	Jan.	216.8	174.6	346.2	336.2	115.7	112.9			2,459.9	2,480.7
	Feb.	201.1	165.1	331.7	352.1	110.4	113.2			2,252.2	2,576.0
	Mar.	191.7	178.9	324.8	325.5	113.3	116.1			2,611.8	2,755.3
	Apr.	168.7	163.0	347.5	367.3	112.2	114.7			2,714.4	2,812.6
	May	154.5	163.5	403.0	400.0	123.2	124.7			3,338.3	3,219.8
	Jun.	139.4	159.5	424.5	426.2	133.4	135.1			3,626.1	3,575.0
	Jul.	145.1	166.8	441.3	440.0	134.7	135.8			3,467.2	3,318.7
	Aug.	150.0	168.8	424.8	428.2	135.1	134.9			3,421.0	3,348.9
	Sep.	148.9	169.7	442.2	442.7	139.2	137.2			3,372.8	3,433.3
	Oct.	145.4	168.4	444.4	436.1	134.4	134.9			3,346.3	3,342.5
	Nov.	169.0	174.4	441.9	430.9	138.6	134.4			3,396.7	3,412.7
	Dec.	204.2	180.8	454.5	441.0	137.2	133.0			3,630.3	3,445.6
1977	Jan.	228.3	185.6	468.2	458.0	137.5	134.4			3,481.6	3,412.0
	Feb.	231.9	195.4	423.4	443.4	129.0	131.8			3,243.2	3,578.0
	Mar.	193.3	180.2	429.4	432.8	125.6	128.7			3,967.4	4,117.4
	Apr.	188.2	181.9	415.7	436.9	125.6	128.3			3,464.0	3,563.6
	May	163.0	172.0	421.7	418.0	124.6	126.2			4,164.6	4,040.7
	Jun.	154.5	175.0	420.4	419.9	127.4	129.0			4,717.2	4,664.3
	Jul.	148.5	170.5	390.0	389.2	121.9	123.2				
	Aug.	151.7	170.7	398.5	401.6	127.1	126.9				
	Sep.	154.8	175.8	409.5	408.7	129.5	127.2				
	Oct.	160.6	184.1	422.0	413.9	126.4	126.9				
	Nov.	175.3	180.7	443.3	432.6	126.9	122.7				
	Dec.	235.7	211.4	440.1	428.7	133.4	129.1				
1978	Jan.	271.5	228.5	423.7	413.4	130.7	127.5				
	Feb.	272.0	235.2	416.5	436.3	128.3	131.0				
	Mar.	243.5	230.1	441.6	446.4	124.8	128.1				
	Apr.	202.8	196.2	430.9	452.8	123.7	126.4				
	May	181.5	190.5	405.0	401.0	121.3	123.0				
	Jun.	168.6	189.0	405.2	403.6	123.2	124.6				
	Jul.	159.8	181.9	411.0	410.4	126.6	128.0				
	Aug.	158.8	177.9	405.8	408.8	128.6	128.5				
	Sep.	163.0	184.1	431.9	430.4	133.7	131.3				
	Oct.										
	Nov.										
	Dec.										

SERIES DISCONTINUED

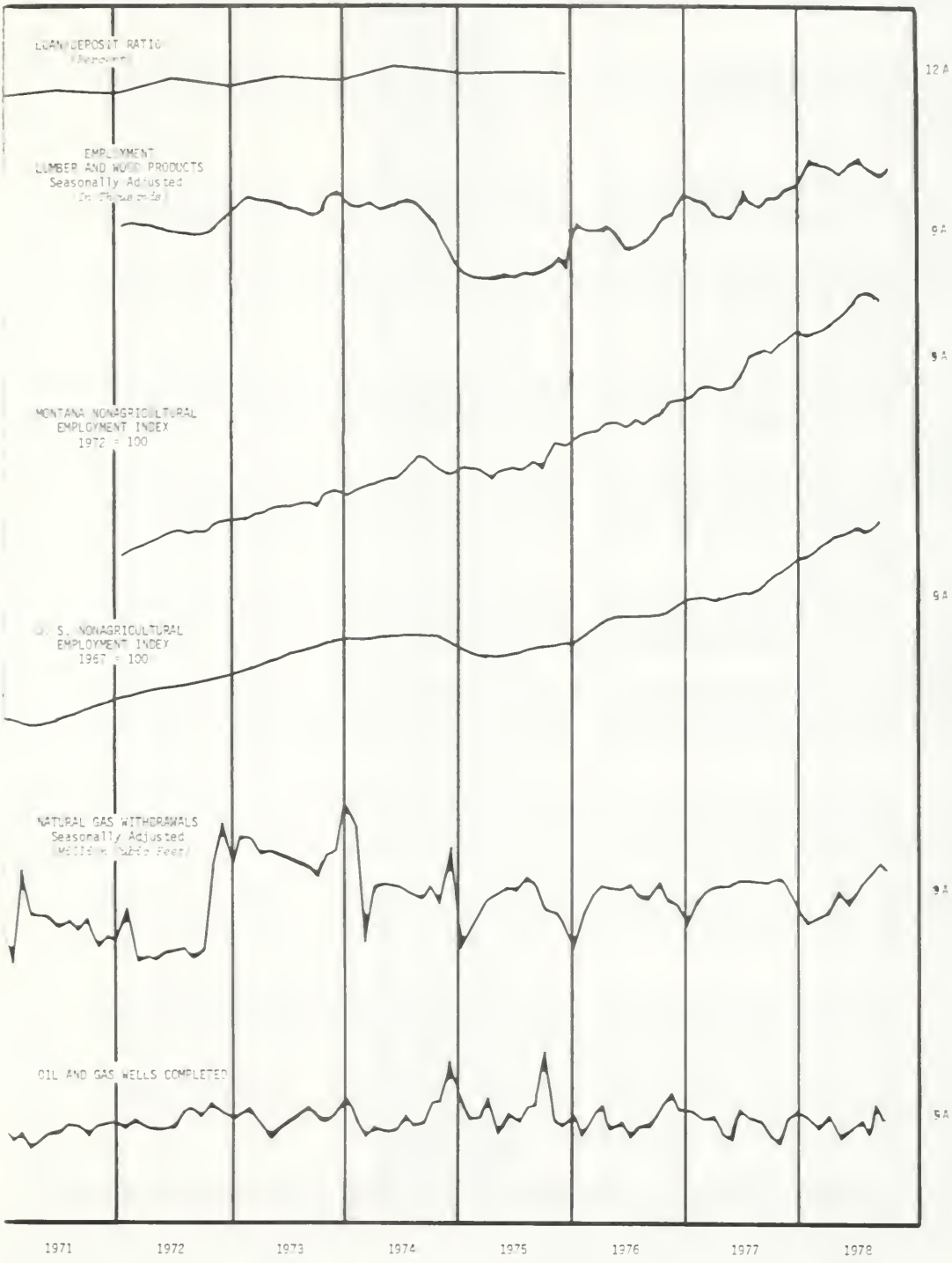

RESIDENTIAL
ELECTRIC POWER SALES INDEX
Seasonally Adjusted
1967 = 100
9 A
MANUFACTURING POWER SALES
Seasonally Adjusted
(Thousand KWH)
9 A
COMMERCIAL - INDUSTRIAL
ELECTRIC POWER SALES INDEX
Seasonally Adjusted
1967 = 100
9 A
BANK LOANS INDEX
1967 = 100
12 A
6 A
BANK DEBITS
Seasonally Adjusted
($1,000,000)
12 A
BANK DEPOSITS INDEX
1967 = 100
1971
1972
1973
1974
1975
1976
1977
1978

OTHER IMPORTANT ECONOMIC MEASURES SELECTED INDICATORS

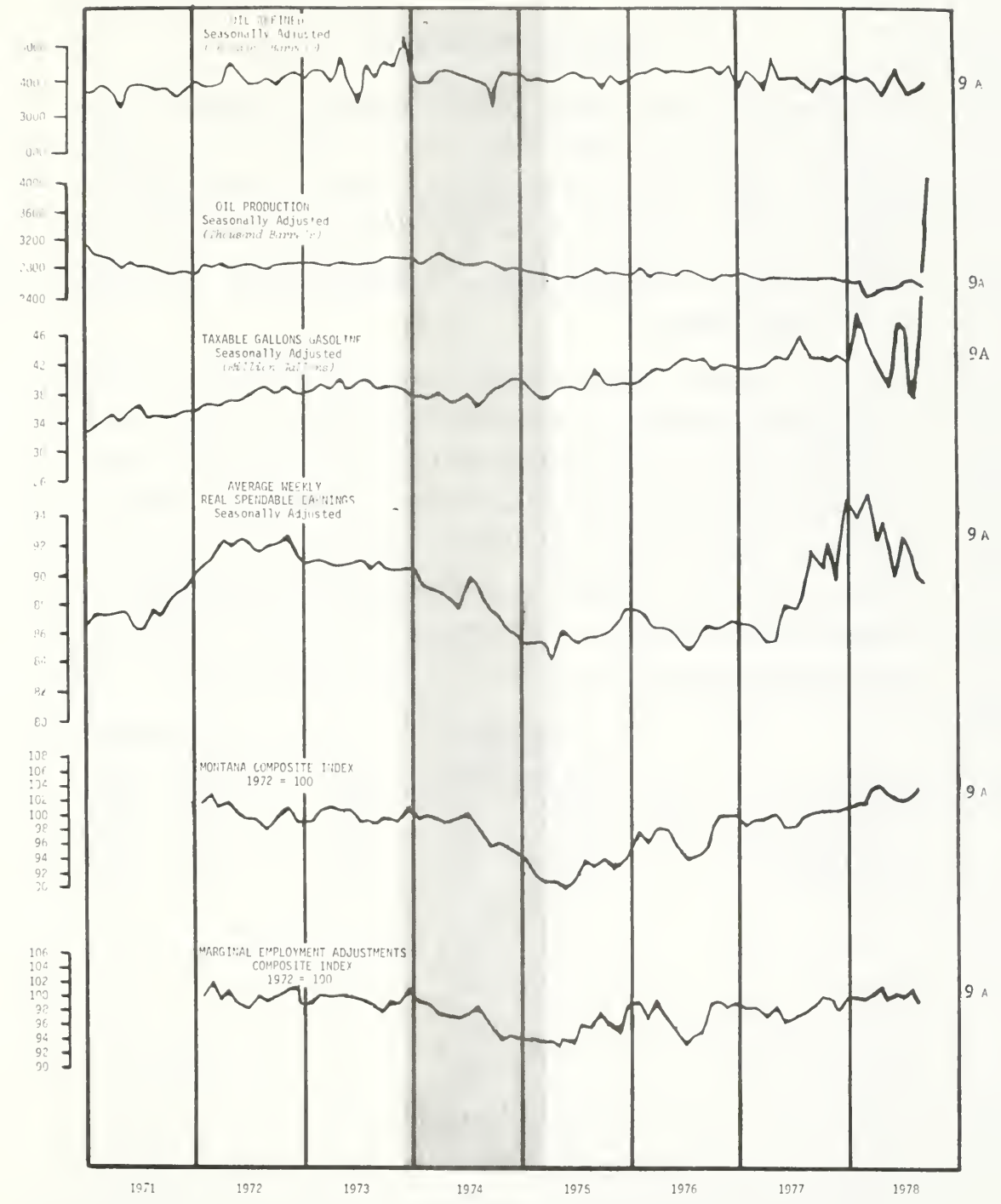
		Loan/ Deposit Ratio *(Percent)*	Employment- Lumber and Wood Products *(in Thousands)*		Nonagricultural Employment Index		Natural Gas Withdrawals *(Million Cu.Ft.)*		Oil and Gas Wells Completed
		UNADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	MONTANA*	U. S. **	UNADJ	ADJ	
1976	Jan.		8.6	9.3	114.2	117.6	4,182	2,815	77
	Feb.		8.5	9.0	114.5	118.1	3,996	3,429	40
	Mar.		8.5	9.1	114.7	118.6	4,262	3,713	75
	Apr.		8.5	9.1	115.6	119.0	3,539	3,898	87
	May		8.8	9.0	115.8	119.5	3,294	3,847	46
	Jun.		9.1	8.8	114.7	119.4	3,138	3,759	59
	Jul.		9.4	8.7	117.0	119.7	3,244	3,892	30
	Aug.		9.8	9.0	117.0	119.8	3,227	3,801	50
	Sep.		9.8	9.2	118.1	119.8	3,130	3,664	64
	Oct.		9.7	9.4	118.2	119.7	3,503	3,932	63
	Nov.		9.6	9.5	119.2	120.5	4,180	3,789	104
	Dec.		9.6	9.7	120.4	120.8	4,516	3,678	81
1977	Jan.		9.1	9.8	119.0	121.3	4,734	3,413	79
	Feb.		9.2	9.7	119.6	121.8	4,231	3,731	58
	Mar.		8.8	9.4	120.3	122.4	4,557	4,024	65
	Apr.		8.8	9.4	120.7	122.8	3,815	4,132	47
	May		9.5	9.3	121.3	123.3	3,637	4,155	41
	Jun.		10.4	10.1	121.6	123.8	3,599	4,179	77
	Jul.		10.4	9.8	121.8	123.9	3,456	4,075	59
	Aug.		10.5	9.7	124.8	124.2	3,591	4,139	51
	Sep.		10.5	9.9	124.4	124.6	3,518	4,027	35
	Oct.		10.2	9.9	124.8	125.0	3,646	4,056	29
	Nov.		10.1	10.1	125.5	126.0	3,977	3,630	54
	Dec.		10.1	10.2	126.3	126.6	4,473	3,721	70
1978	Jan.		10.1	10.8	126.0	126.9	4,468	3,169	62
	Feb.		10.2	10.7	126.3	127.3	3,941	3,475	49
	Mar.		10.0	10.6	127.1	127.5	4,172	3,648	66
	Apr.		9.8	10.4	128.5	128.4	3,601	3,898	38
	May		10.5	10.7	129.5	128.9	3,182	3,683	47
	Jun.		11.1	10.8	130.0	129.5	3,350	3,908	56
	Jul.		11.3	10.6	130.2	129.1	3,465	4,069	40
	Aug.		11.3	10.5	130.4	129.3	3,748	4,282	75
	Sep.		11.2	10.6	129.7	129.7	3,708	4,205	55
	Oct.								
	Nov.								
	Dec.								

* *MONTANA: 1972 = 100* ** *U.S.: 1967 = 100*

OTHER IMPORTANT ECONOMIC MEASURES SELECTED INDICATORS



		Oil Refined (Thousand Barrels)		Oil Production (Thousand Barrels)		Taxable Gallons Gasoline (Thousand Gallons)		Gross Average Weekly Earnings		Average Weekly Spendable Earnings		MONTANA Composite Index	Marginal Employ. Adjust. Index
		UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	1972=100	1972=100
1976	Jan.	4,136	4,126	2,732	2,726	31,913	39,200	165.89	168.01	85.35	86.41	97.2	98.9
	Feb.	3,809	4,124	2,611	2,830	29,664	39,305	164.98	168.25	85.77	86.45	95.7	96.8
	Mar.	4,117	4,176	2,805	2,719	34,652	40,454	163.70	167.44	84.02	85.89	97.6	99.3
	Apr.	3,892	4,297	2,707	2,729	36,979	40,574	165.50	168.75	84.44	85.95	96.9	97.2
	May	3,709	4,131	2,819	2,743	40,059	41,042	168.84	169.69	85.31	85.04	95.0	95.4
	Jun.	4,342	4,156	2,665	2,719	45,853	40,911	170.88	170.20	85.69	85.19	93.3	93.4
	Jul.	4,613	4,123	2,758	2,762	54,836	41,665	172.67	170.32	85.92	84.73	93.9	94.4
	Aug.	4,612	4,167	2,800	2,740	55,278	41,488	175.69	171.72	86.77	85.05	94.8	94.9
	Sep.	4,331	4,253	2,650	2,663	44,233	41,648	178.92	175.78	87.22	86.23	98.1	98.7
	Oct.	4,167	4,285	2,736	2,668	40,610	40,095	177.79	174.58	86.90	85.62	99.3	98.7
	Nov.	4,206	4,105	2,738	2,770	37,794	40,740	175.02	174.98	85.54	85.69	98.3	98.3
	Dec.	4,390	3,911	2,770	2,723	36,437	41,096	175.78	175.67	85.62	85.69	98.8	98.7
1977	Jan.	3,858	3,841	2,757	2,749	33,237	40,476	175.94	178.04	85.17	86.21	98.2	98.2
	Feb.	3,923	4,248	2,505	2,724	31,499	41,209	176.00	179.23	84.35	86.02	99.2	98.2
	Mar.	3,983	4,049	2,787	2,702	35,958	41,872	174.94	178.85	83.40	85.34	99.0	97.1
	Apr.	3,200	3,587	2,737	2,754	39,534	43,122	178.69	182.14	84.21	85.81	99.1	98.3
	May	4,226	4,648	2,795	2,724	41,227	42,358	184.79	185.64	87.94	87.63	97.1	96.1
	Jun.	4,281	4,075	2,666	2,723	49,224	44,157	185.26	184.62	87.77	87.30	97.5	96.9
	Jul.	4,582	4,076	2,734	2,738	55,279	41,986	190.97	188.69	89.63	88.53	95.8	97.4
	Aug.	4,433	3,998	2,838	2,774	56,186	42,521	200.28	196.28	92.96	91.21	97.1	98.2
	Sep.	3,935	3,851	2,743	2,755	44,888	42,205	197.89	194.75	91.67	90.19	98.1	99.1
	Oct.	3,855	3,991	2,844	2,779	42,525	42,018	202.65	199.33	93.29	91.98	98.1	98.7
	Nov.	4,043	3,937	2,676	2,706	39,728	42,668	190.85	190.80	88.23	88.35	98.0	97.5
	Dec.	3,992	4,032	2,590	2,545	36,432	41,123	210.37	210.13	95.44	95.43	98.5	99.0
1978	Jan.	3,991	3,971	2,557	2,548	40,170	47,385	205.19	207.28	92.67	93.69	100.1	98.6
	Feb.	3,737	4,067	2,152	2,372	34,909	44,654	209.10	212.32	93.63	95.29	100.2	98.3
	Mar.	3,856	3,926	2,520	2,435	35,801	41,771	203.28	207.28	90.71	92.68	103.1	99.7
	Apr.	3,155	3,534	2,527	2,543	34,050	37,634	207.77	211.32	91.58	93.23	103.9	104.6
	May	3,581	4,203	2,607	2,537	45,159	46,364	208.58	209.43	91.04	90.72	102.3	102.5
	Jun.	4,235	4,019	2,527	2,586	50,437	45,437	216.58	215.96	93.03	92.57	101.7	103.0
	Jul.	4,111	3,596	2,598	2,602	50,802	37,448	217.49	215.24	92.67	91.61	101.2	102.9
	Aug.	4,275	3,845	2,637	2,570	49,666	36,063	214.68	210.66	91.19	89.43	101.7	103.7
	Sep.	4,077	3,990	2,568	2,578	65,021	62,289	215.27	212.13	90.81	89.33	102.7	102.1
	Oct.												
	Nov.												
	Dec.												


OIL REFINED
Seasonally Adjusted
OIL PRODUCTION
Seasonally Adjusted
(Thousand Barrels)
TAXABLE GALLONS GASOLINE
Seasonally Adjusted
(Million Gallons)
AVERAGE WEEKLY
REAL SPENDABLE EARNINGS
Seasonally Adjusted
MONTANA COMPOSITE INDEX
1972 = 100
MARGINAL EMPLOYMENT ADJUSTMENTS
COMPOSITE INDEX
1972 = 100
1971
1972
1973
1974
1975
1976
1977
1978

New Series - Help Wanted Ads

With this quarter's issue of Montana's Economic Indicators, a new series on help wanted advertising has been added to the publication. This series is an actual count of the number of classified newspaper advertisements for employment opportunities published in five major Montana daily newspapers. The newspapers are the Billings Gazette, the Great Falls Tribune, the Independent Record, the Missoulian, and the Montana Standard.

The series is presented in both an unadjusted series and a seasonally adjusted series determined by the X-11 formula of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The series is a reflection of the level of economic activity as represented by the number of job openings resulting from existing vacancies and new job creation. The series provides an indication of the supply side of the labor market. A similar but more complex national index, the Index of Help Wanted Advertising in Newspapers is classified as a leader at peaks and a lagger at troughs with no overall classification, while the classification of the Montana series remains undetermined at this time.

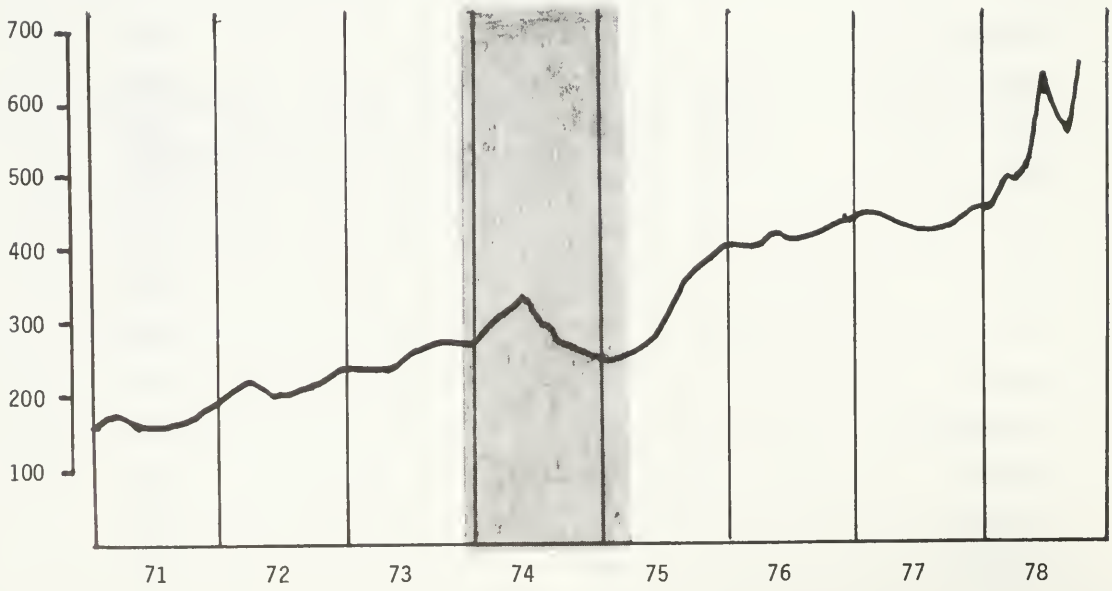
		Monthly Data			Percent Change	
Help Wanted Ads	Unit	Latest Month 1978	Last Month	Last Year	Last Month	Last Year
Seasonally Adj.	No.	Sept. 638	551	461	*15.8%*	*38.4%*
Unadjusted	No.	Sept. 713	617	536	*15.6%*	*33.0%*

HELP WANTED ADS

	Unadjusted	Adjusted
1976		
January	315	374
February	297	353
March	305	309
April	459	432
May	425	399
June	408	379
July	420	419
August	468	395
September	440	367
October	406	404
November	378	409
December	314	392
1977		
January	376	441
February	386	443
March	425	429
April	465	434
May	442	415
June	443	413
July	358	357
August	499	430
September	536	461
October	448	447
November	425	454
December	375	453

HELP WANTED ADS

	Unadjusted	Adjusted
1978		
January	374	440
February	444	501
March	491	497
April	568	534
May	650	622
June	606	576
July	565	564
August	617	551
September	713	638



INDICATOR	UNIT	MONTHLY DATA Latest Month 1978		Last Month	Last Year	PERCENT CHANGE Last Month	Last Year
LEADING INDICATORS							
Initial Claims							
Seasonally Adjusted	Avg.No./Wk.	Sept.	1,081	907	1,295	19.2	-16.5
Unadjusted	Avg.No./Wk.	Sept.	720	606	938	18.8	-23.3
Nonagricultural Placements							
Seasonally Adjusted	Number	Sept.	4,263	4,507	4,996	-5.4	-14.7
Unadjusted	Number	Sept.	5,063	6,310	5,800	-19.8	-12.7
Total Building Permits							
Seasonally Adjusted	Number	Sept.	620	664	635	-6.6	-2.4
Unadjusted	Number	Sept.	779	824	790	-5.5	-1.4
Residential Building Permits							
Seasonally Adjusted	Number	Sept.	236	326	298	-27.4	-20.8
Unajusted	Number	Sept.	275	342	335	-19.6	-17.9
Quit Rate							
Seasonally Adjusted	Rate/100	Sept.	2.5	1.4	1.9	78.6	31.6
Unadjusted	Rate/100	Sept.	4.2	2.5	3.6	68.0	16.7
New Hires Rate							
Seasonally Adjusted	Rate/100	Sept.	2.3	1.9	3.6	21.1	-34.6
Unadjusted	Rate/100	Sept.	3.0	2.9	4.3	3.4	-30.2
Layoff Rate							
Seasonally Adjusted	Rate/100	Sept.	.5	.1	.6	500.0	-16.7
Unadjusted	Rate/100	Sept.	.5	.6	.6	-16.7	-16.7
Accession Rate							
Seasonally Adjusted	Rate/100	Sept.	3.0	2.7	4.3	11.1	-21.2
Unadjusted	Rate/100	Sept.	3.5	3.5	4.8	0	-27.1
Average Weekly Hours-Mfg.							
Seasonally Adjusted	Hours	Sept.	40.8	42.2	42.2	-3.4	-3.4
Unadjusted	Hours	Sept.	41.3	42.4	42.7	-2.6	-3.3
New Business Telephones							
Seasonally Adjusted	Number	Sept.	359	277	218	29.6	64.7
Unadjusted	Number	Sept.	281	216	141	30.1	99.3
New Corporations	Number	Sept.	112	212	199	-47.2	-43.7
Withdrawals & Dissolution of Corporations	Number	Sept.	12	22	28	-45.5	-57.1

INDICATOR	UNIT	MONTHLY DATA Latest Month 1978		Last Month	Last Year	PRECENT CHANGE Last Month	Last Year
COINCIDING INDICATORS							
Unemployment Rate							
Seasonally Adjusted	Percent	Sept.	5.7	6.1	6.6	-6.4	-13.6
Unadjusted	Percent	Sept.	4.7	5.2	5.5	-9.6	-14.5
Unemployment Total							
Seasonally Adjusted	Thousands	Sept.	20.5	21.6	22.8	-5.1	-10.1
Unadjusted	Thousands	Sept.	17.1	19.7	19.4	-13.2	-11.9
Insured Unemployment							
Seasonally Adjusted	Avg.No./Wk.	Sept.	9,764	10,856	11,442	-10.1	-14.7
Unadjusted	Avg.No./Wk.	Sept.	5,919	8,771	7,631	-32.5	-22.4
Manufacturing Employment							
Seasonally Adjusted	Thousands	Sept.	26.2	23.8	23.7	10.1	10.5
Unadjusted	Thousands	Sept.	27.2	25.1	24.7	8.4	10.1
New Car Registration							
Seasonally Adjusted	Number	Sept.			1,786		
Unadjusted	Number	Sept.			1,774		
Residential Power Sales							
Seasonally Adjusted	Index	Sept.	184.1	177.9	175.8	3.5	4.7
Unadjusted	Index	Sept.	163.0	158.8	154.8	2.6	5.3
Manufacturing Power Sales							
Seasonally Adjusted	Thousand KWH	Sept.	430.4	408.8	408.7	5.3	5.3
Unadjusted	Thousand KHW	Sept.	431.9	405.8	409.5	6.4	5.5
Commerical - Industrial Power Sales							
Seasonally Adjusted	Index	Sept.	131.3	128.5	127.2	2.2	3.2
Unadjusted	Index	Sept.	133.7	128.6	129.5	4.0	3.2
Bank Loans	None						
Bank Debits	Series Discontinued						
Bank Deposits	None						

INDICATOR	UNIT	MONTHLY DATA Latest Month 1978		Last Month	PERCENT CHANGE Last Year	Last Month	Last Year
OTHER IMPORTANT ECONOMIC MEASURES							
Employment - Lumber and Wood Products							
Seasonally Adjusted	Thousands	Sept.	10.4	8.9	8.8	*16.9*	*18.2*
Unadjusted	Thousands	Sept.	11.0	9.7	9.4	*13.4*	*17.0*
Montana Nonagricultural Employment	Index	Sept.	124.7	123.7	124.4	*.8*	*.2*
U.S. Nonagricultural	Index	Sept.	129.7	129.3	124.6	*.3*	*4.1*
Natural Gas Withdrawals							
Seasonally Adjusted	Mil.Cu.Ft.	Sept.	4,205	4,282	4,027	*-1.8*	*4.4*
Unadjusted	Mil.Cu.Ft.	Sept.	3,708	3,748	3,518	*-1.1*	*5.4*
Gas and Oil Well Completed	Number	Sept.	55	75	35	*-26.7*	*57.1*
Oil Refined							
Seasonally Adjusted	Thous.Bbls.	Sept.	3,990	3,845	3,851	*3.8*	*3.6*
Unadjusted	Thous.Bbls.	Sept.	4,077	4,275	3,935	*-4.6*	*3.6*
Oil Production							
Seasonally Adjusted	Thous.Bbls.	Sept.	2,578	2,570	2,755	*.3*	*-4.4*
Unadjusted	Thous.Bbls.	Sept.	2,568	2,637	2,743	*-2.6*	*-6.4*
Taxable Gallon Gasoline							
Seasonally Adjusted	Thous.Gals.	Sept.	62,289	36,063	42,205	*72.7*	*47.6*
Unadjusted	Thous.Gals.	Sept.	65,021	49,666	44,888	*30.9*	*44.9*
Average Weekly Real Spendable Earnings							
Seasonally Adjusted	Dollars	Sept.	89.33	89.43	90.19	*-0.1*	*-1.0*
Unadjusted	Dollars	Sept.	90.81	91.19	91.67	*-0.4*	*-0.9*
COMPOSITE INDICATORS							
Montana Composite Index	Index	Sept.	102.7	101.7	98.1	*1.0*	*4.7*
Marginal Employment Index	Index	Sept.	102.1	103.7	99.1	*-1.5*	*3.0*

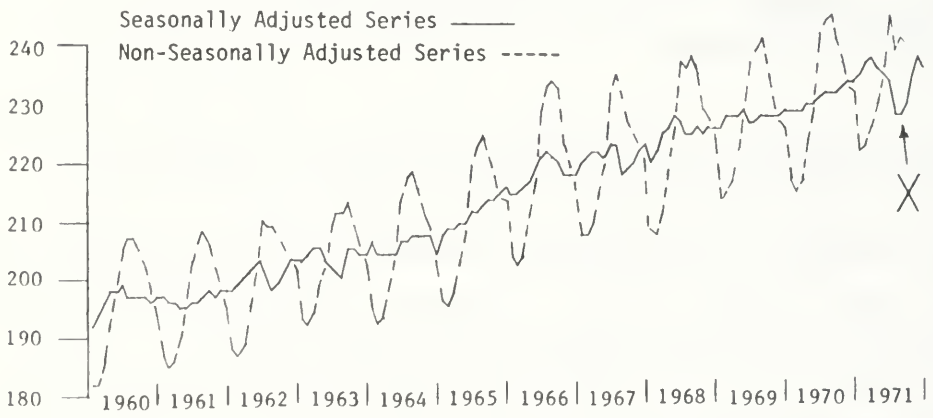
APPENDIX I

GLOSSARY

Seasonal Adjustment - A mathematical procedure in which certain monthly or yearly variations such as climate, holidays, vacation practices, etc., are removed from the statistics. The purpose of this is to simplify analysis over a long period of time and to highlight such non-seasonal occurances as strikes, natural disasters, floods, earthquakes, etc.

Non-Seasonally Adjusted - or "raw" data will not always reflect such occurances precisely because of seasonal influences. For example, the following chart is a graph of total nonagricultural employment for the State of Montana for the years 1960 to 1971.

TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT - MONTANA



Note the erratic nature of the non-adjusted data, and that a non-seasonal phenomena occurred in 1971 directly above the "X" mark. During this period a labor-management dispute occurred and the seasonally adjusted figures emphasize this point whereas the dispute is not readily apparent in the non-adjusted data. A word of caution is due at this point about non-adjusted and adjusted data. Adjusted data is not a "substitute" for actual data, and should in no way be used as such.

Economic Indicators - Statistical time series whose cyclical characteristics are known and fairly stable, particularly in the timing of their cyclical peaks and troughs relative to business cycle turns. Economic Indicators are used for the interpretation of current, and the anticipation of prospective, business conditions.

Leading Indicators - An economic series that tends to reverse direction sufficiently in advance of changes in total business activity. The peaks and troughs of this type of indicator generally occur from three to several months previous to the peak or trough in total business activity.

Coincidental Indicators - An economic series that tends to parallel the same general pattern of total business activity.

Selected Indicators - A cyclical time series whose true value as an economic indicator is not yet known.

Lagging Indicators - An economic series that tends to reverse direction (reach its peaks or troughs) some time after the total business pattern has changed.

Other Indicators - A statistical series that combines the cyclical changes of the other types of economic indicators. For example, personal income generally lags at the peaks, and leads at the troughs of total business activity.

Montana Composite Index - A composite of six leading indicators of employment and economic activity: Building Permits, Manufacturing Employment, Average Weekly Hours, Average Weekly Initial Claims, Accession Rate and Layoff Rate. A reverse trend has been used for Layoff Rate and Average Weekly Initial Claims. The components are converted to series of standardized changes and weighted according to their significance and reliability as economic indicators in making the composite. This composite index is not comparable to the U. S. composite index as published in "Business Conditions Digest", U. S. Department of Commerce.

Marginal Employment Adjustments Index - A composite of four leading indicators of employment changes or adjustments: Average Weekly Hours, Average Weekly Initial Claims, Layoff Rate, and Accession Rate. In producing the composite these components are seasonally adjusted, converted to series of standardized changes, and weighted according to their significance and reliability as economic indicators. This composite indicator tends to lead changes in the unemployment rate by approximately five months.

Labor Turnover - The movement of wage and salary workers in and out of employment status.

Accessions - All permanent or temporary additions to the employment rolls, which include new hires and other accessions.

New Hires - Permanent and temporary additions to employment rolls of persons who have never been employed by a specific reporting establishment. This includes former employees who have been rehired although not specifically recalled by the reporting employer.

Other Accessions - Additions to the employment rolls of transfers from other establishments of the same company; employees returning from military service or unpaid leaves of absence; employees specifically recalled by an employer.

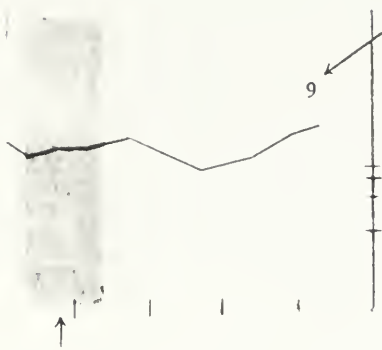
Separations - The termination of employment of persons who quit, are laid off, discharged, retire, die, are inducted into the military for service exceeding 30 consecutive days, suffer physical disabilities, or are transferred to other divisions of the same company.

Quits - The termination of employment initiated by an employee for any reason other than retirement, transfer, or service in the Armed Forces.

Layoffs - Suspension from pay status of an employee, expected to last seven consecutive days. This action must be initiated by the employer without prejudice to the worker, for reasons such as lack of orders, model changeover, termination of seasonal employment, inventory-taking, plant breakdown, shortage of materials.

APPENDIX II

KEY



Arabic numbers above graph lines indicate the last month of the year for which data have been plotted.

"A" indicates that scale is arithmetic. "L1", "L2", or "L3" indicate a ratio (semilogarithmic) scale of 1, 2, or 3 decks respectively.

Shaded areas on the graph indicate recession periods in the United States as designated by the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Broken lines on graphs indicate that data is not available for that time period.

Montana's indicators have been classified into three types; Leading, Coinciding, and Selected. The classification of Montana's Leading and Coinciding Indicators parallels the Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis classification. This has been done to facilitate an easier and more accurate comparison of individual indicators with those of the nation. (This classification, however, does not mean that the Montana Employment Service has endorsed any particular economic theory.)

Historical data available upon request.

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
P. O. Box 1728
Helena, Montana 59601

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL
LAB 449

The Montana State Employment Security Division maintains 23 local Job Service Offices in the principal cities of Montana. You are invited to call on any of these offices for assistance in filling positions in your organization, additional labor market information, and for other services in connection with your employment problems.